



# Louisiana Public Service Commission

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General Counsel

November 9, 2007

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

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Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Re: WC Docket No. 05-337

Dear Commissioners:

The Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC) has been monitoring the above-referenced proceeding, wherein the FCC is currently considering the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service (Joint Board) recommendation to impose an interim, emergency cap on the amount of high-cost support that competitive eligible telecommunications carriers (CETCs) can receive in each State. As you know, the Joint Board has recommended that the cap be based upon the average level of support distributed to CETCs in each State in 2006.

The LPSC has certified several CETCs in Louisiana to bring services to rural areas comparable to those provided in more densely populated urban areas. The LPSC also carefully monitors the funds used by the CETCs, all of which are required to file quarterly reports regarding the use of federal universal service funds, to ensure these funds are being invested to the benefit of these rural areas. While the LPSC has not filed comments in support or against the proposed cap, if the FCC ultimately decides to implement an interim cap on CETC high-cost support, the LPSC strongly urges the FCC to use the most recent calendar quarter prior to adoption of the cap as the "base period" for the cap. This will ensure that the most up-to-date and available information is used, rather than selecting an arbitrary implementation date. In support of this position, the LPSC adopted a resolution at its November 8, 2007 Business and Executive Session

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urging the most recent calendar quarter data be used should a cap be implemented. I have attached a copy of the resolution to this correspondence.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have any questions concerning this correspondence or the attached resolution, please contact us.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a prominent loop and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lawrence C. St. Blanc, Executive  
Secretary

Enclosures  
LCStB:bmf

(Decided at the Business & Executive Session November 8, 2007)

WHEREAS, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service issued a Recommended Decision on May 1, 2007, proposing an "interim, emergency cap" on high-cost support to Competitive Eligible Telecommunications Carriers;

WHEREAS, the Recommended Decision urged that the cap be based upon the average level of support distributed to Competitive ETCs in each State in 2006;

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission is currently considering the Joint Board's Recommended Decision in WC Docket No. 05-337;

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Public Service Commission has certified several Competitive ETCs in Louisiana to bring services to rural areas comparable to those provided in more densely populated urban areas;

WHEREAS, the Commission also carefully monitors the funds used by the Competitive ETCs, all of which are required to file quarterly reports regarding the use of federal universal service funds, to ensure these funds are being invested to the benefit of these rural areas;

WHEREAS, while the Commission does not take a position in support or against the proposed cap, should the FCC adopt a cap, the most up-to-date and available information should be used in determining the support distributed to Competitive ETCs in each State.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Louisiana Public Service Commission strongly urges that, if the FCC ultimately decides to implement an interim cap on Competitive ETC high-cost support, the FCC use the most recent calendar quarter prior to adoption of the cap as the "base period" for the cap.

**BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**

November 9, 2007

/S/ JACK "JAY" A. BLOSSMAN

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CHAIRMAN JACK "JAY" A. BLOSSMAN

/S/ LAMBERT C. BOISSIERE, III

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